

PLANS FOR IMPROVING PENSACOLA HARBOR

By
Brig-General Marshall,
Chief of Engineers.

The available depth across the harbor at the entrance to Pensacola harbor in 1879, previous to any work of improvement, was 19.5 feet, the width of the channel being contracted by the encroachment of the Middle Ground shoal to the southward. The harbor entrance and channel way were also obstructed by wrecks and the western shore in the vicinity of Fort McRee was cutting away rapidly, almost the whole of old Fort McRee washing away before the erosion was stopped.

The project of 1877 considered only the removal of the wrecks; that of 1878 called for the removal of these wrecks and for making a survey to determine further recommendations for improvement. The project of 1881 provided for dredging a channel 300 feet wide and 24 feet deep at mean low water for the temporary relief of navigation, and also for protecting the shore line near Fort McRee, with a view to preventing further injurious changes. Dredging under this project was carried on at various times between 1881 and 1893, and at the close of the dredging operations in August, 1893, the available channel was 225 feet wide and 24 feet deep at mean low water. Two groins, one 360 feet and the other 220 feet long, were completed in 1890, and still serve to hold the shore line near Fort McRee.

A New Channel.
In 1891 a special board of engineers presented a project for opening a new channel across the Caucus shoal, following the direction of the ebb current, by means of two jetties, assisted by dredging, if necessary. In 1895 a second special board of engineers recommended that no change be made in the project of 1891, but

that dredging be tried, using one of the hydraulic dredges belonging to the United States to open up a channel 26 feet deep at mean low water and as wide as practicable on the line of deepest water across the Caucus shoal, and approximately on the line of the axis of the jettied channel proposed by the board of engineers in 1891. In December, 1895, this channel was opened by the U. S. dredge Gedney, to a width of 120 feet and depth of 24 feet at mean low water. It has a length of about 10,000 feet across Caucus shoal and is now known as Caucus channel.

In 1896 the same board that recommended the first amendment to the project of 1891 submitted a second amendment providing for the expenditure of all funds available in continuing the work of dredging across the Caucus shoal and for building a dredge and opening the channel across the Caucus shoal 30 feet deep at mean low water to a width of at least 300 feet, with such side slopes as the material would assume. If sufficient funds were made available by congress, until a channel should be opened by dredging across the Caucus shoal, as above proposed, the board recommended that the construction of the jetties for its maintenance be not considered.

The river and harbor act of March 3, 1899, extended this project to "securing a channel depth of 30 feet at mean low water, from the Gulf of Mexico to the dock line at the east end of the city of Pensacola."

\$725,956.94 Expended.
The amount expended on these projects to June 30, 1905, was \$725,956.94. The work done comprises the removal of the wrecks obstructing the channel, dredging a large amount of material

from the inner bar, opening and dredging a 30-foot channel across the Caucus shoal, and the protection of the shore line from erosion by the construction of two groins near old Fort McRee.

The river and harbor act approved June 13, 1902, appropriated \$220,000, of which \$150,000 might be used in constructing a sea going suction dredge. This dredge, the Caucus, was built and turned over to the district in August, 1905. The same act modified the project, which now provides for dredging a channel 30 feet deep and 500 feet wide from the Gulf of Mexico to the dock line at the east end of the city of Pensacola. There is no approved estimate of the cost of this project. Under this amended project there has been expended for dredge construction \$172,221.27 and for the improvement, \$224,024.15, of which about \$150,000 has been applied to maintenance.

Commerce of Port Large.
The commerce of the port is very large. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, the foreign exports were reported as \$13,741,540, no record of the coastwise exports being available; in 1904, as \$15,893,456; in 1905, exports as \$15,295,097, and imports as \$985,840; in 1906, exports as \$18,432,931, and imports as \$387,377; in 1907, exports as \$20,229,414, and imports as \$618,363; in 1908, exports as \$20,322,649, and imports as \$675,503.

The completion of the project will give greatly increased facilities to the large commerce of Pensacola, but will not materially affect freight rates. It is proposed to apply the appropriation recommended in dredging operations toward completion of the project and maintenance of the project depth.

From October 6, 1906, to January 8, 1907, inclusive, the Caucus was em-

ployed by the navy department on salvage work at the Pensacola navy yard, resulting from the storm of September 26-27, 1906, and upon completion of this service she was laid up at the navy yard for repairs. Due to crippled facilities and lack of labor at the yard, these repairs were greatly delayed, and dredging was not resumed until May 11, 1907, when the Caucus commenced work with one pump, pending completion of repairs to boilers. These repairs were completed and work resumed with both pumps on July 25, 1907, since which time work has been continuous, except for delays due to bad weather and repairs. These repairs include docking at the Alca, installing new propeller and one new furnace.

The maximum draft that could be carried over the improvement at mean low water on June 30, 1908, was 30 feet, and the ordinary range of the tide is about 1.1 feet.

Amount that can be profitably expended in fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, for works of improvement and maintenance, in addition to the balance unexpended July 1, 1908, \$150,000.00.

Already Taken.
Stranger—I'd like to have my measure taken for a \$65 suit of clothes.

Tailor (eyeing him)—I've taken your measure. You will pay in advance.—Kansas City Independent.

July 1, 1907, balance unexpended \$106,275.97
Received for salvage work by dredge Caucus 4,752.44
Received from sale of old property 26.77

June 30, 1908, amount expended during fiscal year:
For works of improvement \$20,000.00
For maintenance of improvement 51,879.19
For construction of the dredge Caucus 842.88

July 1, 1908, balance unexpended 38,333.11
July 1, 1908, outstanding liabilities 9,649.60

July 1, 1908, balance available \$28,683.51

July 1, 1908, amount covered by unexpended contracts 3,820.79

Amount that can be profitably expended in fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, for works of improvement and maintenance, in addition to the balance unexpended July 1, 1908, \$150,000.00.

Already Taken.
Stranger—I'd like to have my measure taken for a \$65 suit of clothes.

Tailor (eyeing him)—I've taken your measure. You will pay in advance.—Kansas City Independent.

The Journal delivered at your door, 10c a week.

GOSSIP OF THE RING

By Knox Blockoff

New York, Dec. 19.—With the world's heavyweight championship battle between Tommy Burns and Jack Johnson now only seven days in the future, the fight fans of New York are beginning to sit up and take notice of the affair. Although the bout will be staged in far-away Australia—a locality about as indelicate as the moon to the average Broadway sport—the distance has only served to add enchantment to the battle. Ahead, several wagers on the result have been made, with the big money as a favorite.

Johnson has been telling things about himself to the reporters for the Australian newspapers—yes, Bo, they have newspapers in Australia, and good ones, too—and in everything he says there is an assurance of certain victory that amounts almost to contempt for his doughty antagonist. If you want to call Burns that. Among other things, Jack announced that he could whip Marvin Hart any time easier than any man he ever met, and contended that the decision against himself when he met Hart was most unfair; and he was willing to submit that question to any American sporting writer. That decision was a disgrace to the ring.

Johnson said he had been prepared to fight Burns under any conditions, and had chased Burns out of London, Paris and America, and hoped that he would not chase him out of Australia. He did not think he would, but that it would be a good fight and show who was the better man.

The reporter remarked that Burns said he would settle in Australia after his fight with Johnson.

The latter's manager remarked: "Tommy is a great leg-puller. He said something similar in Ireland, England and France, and now proposed Australia, the greatest country on earth. Johnson also expressed a hope that he would meet Bill Squires—whom he considered a good man and true sport."

Among the metropolitan sporting authorities there is a wide difference of opinion in regard to the coming battle of the heavyweights. Bob Edgren thinks the match is on the square and that Burns will put it over the moke. He explains Burns' alleged "dodging" of the negro in this wise:

"Tommy Burns has proved himself a great business man as well as a great fighter. Jack Johnson and his staff of managers have been badgering Burns for a fight for over a year. Burns went to England to whip Gunner Mott, and Johnson followed. If Burns had fought Johnson a year ago he would have made, possibly, six or eight thousand dollars out of the go. As it is he has taken in \$50,000 already in Australia, not counting the \$30,000 in cash that makes up his end of the purse in the coming fight, and numerous items of transportation and expense money. Foxy Tommy intended all along to fight Johnson when it became worth while. He delayed simply to boom Johnson's reputation and make him a drawing card."

"Burns was offered a far greater sum for fights in Australia, and went there, he fought Australia ready to pay enormous purses for championship fights. After whipping the two best men in that country Burns found himself in a position to demand his price, which he had set at \$30,000. He accepted the offer of that sum by Mr. McIntosh, an immensely wealthy Australian fight promoter. Mr. McIntosh bargained with Johnson and got him for a comparatively small purse. Johnson was hurried out to the battlefield."

Willing to Fake.
"Johnson is noted for his willingness to fake. But he won't have a chance to frame with Burns. The champion always fights to win on his merits, and with a knockout if possible. He thinks he can whip Johnson, and he'll go in to do it from the first going."

Johnson's weight and size and great cleverness may possibly win for him. There's a bare chance of that. But Burns is fully as clever and fast, and as hard a hitter, although much shorter and lighter. Moreover, Burns is game and Johnson is yellow. If Johnson does "lie down" it will be through a desire to quit and avoid punishment. Such an ending would hardly surprise anyone who knows the two fighters. A comparison of records shows Burns to be decidedly "the class."

Tom Dorgan claims to be wise to a few things about the mill that makes it look like a cooked up affair, and deposes thusly:

"Johnson's name has been connected with a crooked fight, the same as Fitzsimmons's, the same as Gans's and the same as Jack O'Brien's; but Tommy Burns, ah! How can they be so cruel?"

"It is true, however, that Tommy's former manager, a Mr. Blay Goe, of Chicago, has letters from the angels one asking the manager to frame up a few fights for him. He wanted the fellow to put up \$5,000 in the hands of an outsider as a guarantee that the affair would be won by Burns."

"It is true that he faked with Jack O'Brien in Los Angeles, and then, at the last moment, double-crossed Japa-

but these little things are likely to happen to any one.

"Probably, Tommy was fooling or didn't know the difference, as Fitzsimmons said about the fake with Jim Hall. We don't know the innermost thoughts of the pure Burns. We can surmise a few things, though."

"Jack Palmer, in England, declared that Burns put up his (Palmer's) forfeit for the great go they had, and also said other things about promises to Tommy."

Looks Queer in East.

"Eastern sports, of course, remember these, and then, when they hear of Burns actually agreeing to fight Johnson after running away from him all over the world, they can't think of anything else but frame-up."

"Burns said the day he left for England that if a \$25,000 purse was hung up he would fight Johnson. Jim Coffroth offered that money, but Burns refused to fight. When he was cornered in England and roasted by the British press, he declared that he would never fight Johnson unless his end, win, lose or draw was \$30,000. Still he claimed that he was the greatest fighter on top of the earth."

"Johnson went to England and Tommy beat it to Australia. When he got that far away from the rest of the world, somehow or other he thought it was a good time to fix up a go with Johnson."

"Burns has made some money on his tours, while Johnson has just made a wee bit more than he needed. Now Burns is the dictator. Will he do as an ex-champion light-weight thinks—make the Johnson people end their end on Burns to win, so that if Burns is double-crossed the Johnson people will be broke?"

"Will he bet a wad on Johnson himself and take to the mat rather than stand up and talk the licking? Will he pay Johnson \$30,000 to make the count, so that he can go around the world without being disputed as the greatest champion we ever saw?"

"There are those who think that the affair is on the level and that Burns won't beat Johnson's head off. There are others who believe it's honest and that Johnson will win. The majority are afraid to bet a nickel if we could see the fight over here, where both men are known, we could tell in a minute. Many believe that Burns is afraid of the big star and that he wouldn't sign up unless the thing was fixed."

"It's a queer match. Queer because of the locality, queer because of the secrecy of the thing, and queer because Angelic Tommy has figured in so many queer things."

Also on the Coast.
Out on the Pacific coast, too, they have their doubts about the go between Johnson and Burns. Many of the leading sporting writers of that section think there is a nigger in the woodpile in the arrangements for the bout. H. M. Walker, of Los Angeles, voices his suspicion in these words:

"It would be folly to overlook the fact that here in Los Angeles the Australian match is looked upon with serious suspicion. It is known that neither Burns nor Johnson is above 'jobbing,' and it is the sincere belief of eight out of every ten of the local followers of the boxing game that Burns and Johnson are preparing to pull off a trickin the far off Antipodes."

"The arguments advanced in substantiation of this suspicion are almost endless. The writer has yet to talk to a well-posted man who is willing to go on record as believing that Burns and Johnson are going to fight strictly on the square."

"Tommy Burns was 'made' right here in Los Angeles, so far as his ring career is concerned. The men who know the pugny Canuck best and the quickest to voice their belief that Burns would never take a chance with the Galveston negro unless the latter had been 'seen.'"

A Real Conversion.
A member of the Union League, of New York, was praising the character of the late Oliver Hazard Perry. He said:

"Here was a man of sincerity. He was talking one day, I remember, of a maid servant who had got religion, and it seemed to me, as I listened, that his own character was of the same thoroughgoing sort as that which followed the maid's change of heart."

"So you're converted, Maggie?" the maid's mistress said to her.

"I don't know, ma'am," said the maid, seriously, "but I seem to be. A great change has come over me."

"How great a change?" said the lady.

"Well, ma'am, replied the maid, 'since that there revival I always sweep under the mats now.'—Washington Star.



EXTRAORDINARY LOW PRICES

Now in Force Throughout This Busy Store.

All Sections are at Their Best Now, and We Call Particular Attention to the Following:

CLOTHING.

50 Boys' Suits, Blue Serge Knickerbockers. Regular price \$8, this sale \$5.48
50 Boys' Suits, all colors. Regular price \$3 and \$3.50, this sale 1.98
100 Boys' Suits, all colors, sample lot—Half price.
Boys' Overcoats. Regular price \$5, while they last 2.50
Men's Suits, small lot left. Regular price \$25, this sale 14.98
Men's Suits, small lot left. Regular price \$20, this sale 12.48



THE SHOES.

The celebrated Stacy-Adams regular \$6 Shoes, to close out for 4.00
French, Shriner and Urner high-grade Shoes, full line just arrived.
Full line of Nettleton Shoes. Will close out at \$3.50, \$4 and 4.50
All Ladies' High-Top Shoes, regular price \$3.50, this sale 2.75
All Felt Juliets, regular price \$1.75 and \$2, this sale 1.25

We Wish You
All a
Prosperous,
Happy 1909.

BRAWNER-RIERA
COMPANY.
101-103 South Palafox Street.

We Wish You
All a
Merry, Merry
Christmas.